

Meeting Minutes from Water Transfer Working Group December 12, 2008, 1:00 PM

Attendees:

Bob Barwin, Dave Brown, Tom Cowan, Stuart Crane, Melissa Downes, Bill Ferry, Chuck Garner, Ken Hasbrouck, Teresa Hauser, Carron Helberg, Stan Isley, Paul LaRiviere, Chris Lynch, Larry Martin, Joe Mentor, Jim Milton, Tom Ring, Mark Schuppe, Jeff Schuster on phone, Jeff Slothower, Tom Tebb, Ron Van Gundy, Dawn Wiedmeier.

Dawn Wiedmeier opened the meeting with introductions. She then proceeded to the first agenda item; the approval of the minutes for September 8, 2008 and November 3, 2008. The group approved the minutes as written.

Dawn continued with the next item concerning the purpose of WTWG. Tom Tebb stated that Ecology has a vested interest in participating and he values this process. Dawn reviewed that the purpose of this group is as an advisory group and how this group helps the court process. The purpose is documented on Ecology's and Round Table's website. Ron Van Gundy mentioned that the purpose was sanctioned by Judge Stauffacher. Joe Mentor commented that this is a good process in the west; we have stumbled on a few of the proposals in litigation, which moves the discussion in front of the Judge. Also, it provides predictability and explains what the rules are. Tom Tebb continued by discussing both of City of Roslyn proposals, their current status, and that both are in litigation.

Bob Barwin began with a little bit of history of the Water Transfer Working Group: started in 2001, Ecology and Reclamation agreed to discuss prior to going to court, Yakama Nation to give feed back, and group would help ease the process. Tom Ring added that "The Box" is the Water Transfer Working Group, and that "The Box," came first, then the drought. The group discussed if the proposal was "in the box"-go forward; if not "in the box"- come back to the group to discuss. The group discussed flexibility, simple vs. complex transfers, and that most are complex.

The group discussed the process for discussing the proposals in litigation, whether in a separate meeting or not, but once settled should come back to the group to be shared.

Dawn brought the group back to the future meeting procedures, which include: 1) a thumbs up or down or need more information and identify if coming back; 2) give more time to review (two weeks); 3) the minutes would be out one week after meeting; and, 4) post "The Box" criteria with the application on Ecology's website. The group likes the flexibility of one full week rather than two for the deadline of the proposals. Also, the group suggested timing with Water Day Court on the 25th of the month and adding additional meetings when needed to handle Ecology's deadlines. The group talked about a self-assessment to address "The Box" criteria on the one-pager form.

Dawn asked the group to look at "The Box" and that there is a clear statement of the status of the proposal from the group. The group discussed "The Box" line by line at

great length. The revised version will be posted on the web for review and discussion at the next meeting.

The group had no new proposals to discuss.

The next item was the Reclamation/Ecology contract. Bill Ferry informed the group that it is in its final form, and he would like to have it signed by Christmas. Dawn announced that Bill McDonald will be the acting Commissioner until it is filled.

Tom Tebb talked about the changes in budget for Ecology, and the affect it will have on his office.

For the next agenda, Jeff Slothower said that MTA will be back.

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 26, 2008 at 1:00 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.